

MINUTES of the MEETING of the RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL OFFICES, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on THURSDAY 31 JANUARY 2019 at 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor K G Basson - Chairman
Councillor P M Harman - Vice Chairman
Councillor Mrs S P Butterfill
Councillor Ms L M Cross
Councillor K M Kelly (substituting for Councillor Mrs M B Kelly)
Councillor B R Parry

ALSO PRESENT: Angela Newey, Citizens Advice in North & West Kent
Helen Beckerson, Citizens Advice in North & West Kent
Graham Blew - Town Clerk
Martin Harding – Assistant Town Clerk/RFO

ABSENT: There were none.

420/18-19. **VICE-CHAIRMAN COUNCILLOR P M HARMAN IN THE CHAIR.**

As the Chairman had been delayed on route to the meeting the Vice-Chairman took the Chair.

421/18-19. **ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS REGARDING FILMING OR RECORDING THE MEETING.**

The Chairman explained the arrangements and constraints relating to the filming or recording of the meeting.

422/18-19. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors' Mrs A E D Barham, Ms L M Hall, J A Hayes, Ms L C Howes, Mrs M B Kelly, D J Mote and B E Read.

An apology for lateness was submitted by Councillor K G Basson.

423/18-19. **SUBSTITUTES.**

Councillor K M Kelly substituted for Councillor Mrs M B Kelly

424/18-19. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.**

Councillor K G Basson declared a prejudicial interest in item 7.4 – Recreation Facility Charges 2019 – 2020, as he is the Chairman of Swanscombe Tigers FC.

The Chairman gave the opportunity for the meeting to be adjourned at this point to accept questions from the public.

The Chairman welcomed the two representatives from Citizens Advice in North & West Kent and thanked them for attending the meeting. The questions and answers that took place regarding this item are minuted under 428/18-19.

425/18-19. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

426/18-19. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2018.

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 November 2018 were approved and signed as a true record.

427/18-19. SENIOR GROUNDSMAN /GARDENER'S REPORT.

The Town Clerk went through the report which updated members on the work undertaken, by the Parks Department and also the work planned for the future which included:

Swanscombe Park, Broomfield Park, Heritage Park, Grove Hall, Manor Park, Vehicles and staff.

Recommended: That the report be noted.

TOWN CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

428/18-19. CITIZENS ADVICE DARTFORD - OLD FIRE STATION COMMUNITY CAFÉ.

The Advice Services Manager – Dartford had written to advise that they may not be able to continue running the outreach service in Swanscombe (every Wednesday) from 2019 onwards.

In response to an invitation from the Town Clerk the CEO of Citizens Advice in North & West Kent kindly agreed to discuss options with the Committee at the meeting on 31 January 2019.

Both Angela Newey and Helen Beckerson explained that the funding had ended to deliver the outreach services at the Old Fire Station Café. Citizens Advice Dartford had assessed the level of use for the service and its effectiveness for local residents.

Members asked what alternatives would be available for local residents to access Citizens Advice support. A discussion was held on the implications of a helpline, touchscreen kiosk or a triage based volunteer gathering information for follow up support.

Members thanked the officers from Citizens Advice Dartford for their attendance and it was agreed that the Town Council would await a proposal from them regarding whichever alternative outreach option was deemed to be the most viable for the residents of the Town.

Recommended: That Angela Newey and Helen Beckerson be thanked for their time and to await a proposal from Citizens Advice Dartford of the most viable alternative outreach option for the residents of the Town.

429/18-19. CHAIRMAN COUNCILLOR K G BASSON IN THE CHAIR.

Councillor K G Basson arrived at the meeting, apologised for his late arrival, thanked Councillor P M Harman and duly took the Chair.

430/18-19. REQUEST FROM SWANSCOMBE RAINBOWS & 2nd SWANSCOMBE BROWNIES – SQUARE OF GROUND, GROVE HALL.

A request, dated 14 January 2019, had been received from the Unit Leader, Swanscombe Rainbows & 2nd Swanscombe Brownies.

Members felt this a worthwhile idea and agreed to allow the use of a small square of ground within the Grove Hall compound for growing plants, flowers and to complete some nature work.

Recommended: That the request be granted.

431/18-19. GRAVESHAM COMMUNITY LEISURE LIMITED (GCLL) DRAFT PROPOSAL SCALE OF CHARGES 2019 FOR THE SWANSCOMBE CENTRE.

In accordance with the Management Agreement (Section 27.2.2), the Managing Director, GCLL, had advised of the proposed Scale of Charges for 2019 and had included the current charges for information.

Due to the timescales involved these charges were reviewed, negotiated and then accepted by the Chairman and members are asked to endorse this.

The Town Clerk updated members on the cost of the Bizz Kids Holiday Club which would be £9.00 per session (£2.87 per hour, 8.30am to noon).

Recommended: To note and endorse

Having already declared a prejudicial interest Councillor K G Basson left the chamber and took no part in the discussion or decision of the following item.

432/18-19. **VICE-CHAIRMAN COUNCILLOR P M HARMAN IN THE CHAIR.**

433/18-19. **RECREATIONAL FACILITY CHARGES 2019 – 2020.**

Members considered the proposed price increases which had been increased by 2.5% overall and rounded up appropriately. As previously agreed, the allotments had been increased by 15% to include the staged recovery of the administration costs of the Allotment Association.

** All of these figures had been taken into account when members previously agreed the Estimates for the forthcoming 2019 – 2020 financial year (minute 389/18 – 19 *Finance and General Purposes Committee and minute 396/18-19 full Council, 10 January 2019*).

Recommended: To approve the Recreation Facility Charges 2019 – 2020.

434/18-19. **REQUEST TO USE SWANSCOMBE HERITAGE PARK.**

A request had been received from a local resident. A verbal update on this was given at the meeting.

Members discussed the benefits of a 'parkrun' operating within the Town on a Saturday morning. Concerns were raised regarding the possible impact that this event may have on the Leisure Centre car park and also on other park users. Members agreed that the Leisure Centre and the Friends of Swanscombe Heritage Park should both be advised/consulted were this project to proceed.

Members agreed, in principle, to this activity taking place subject to a satisfactory agreement regarding the time for the event that minimised any impact on other park users and parking facilities.

Recommended: That the Town Clerk be delegated to progress discussions regarding this activity taking place subject to a satisfactory agreement regarding the time for the event that minimised any impact on other park users and parking facilities.

435/18-19. **ACTIVE EBBSFLEET STEERING GROUP.**

On 14 January 2019, the Active Ebbsfleet Steering Group, comprised of members from relevant stakeholder organisations (the ATC/RFO attended), met to initiate the development of Active Ebbsfleet's Sports Participation and Physical Activity Strategy. The aim of the workshop was to share local priorities, establish joint local strategic outcomes and develop a draft "Vision". A further two workshops were scheduled for February and March.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

436/18-19. CAPACITY BUILDING FUND (DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL (DBC)) – FUTURE APPLICATIONS.

Further to minute 391/18-9 (*FGP 10 January 2019*), members were asked to begin considering suitable/appropriate projects for this year's scheme.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

437/18-19. STRATEGIC BUILDING PORTFOLIO REVIEW WORKING GROUP.

Further to minute 73/18-19 the Working Group were scheduled to resume in January 2019. Since this decision was made the Town Council were now working on arrangements for the Heritage Community Hall which would impact on the review. With this in mind, and with the elections being held at the beginning of May, members were asked to consider whether the Working Group should wait until after these matters had been resolved to resume.

Councillor Mrs S P Butterfill
Councillor P M Harman
Councillor Ms L C Howes
Councillor D J Mote
Councillor S J Ryan

Members agreed that the Working Group should be deferred until after the resolution of both the arrangements for the Heritage Community Hall and the elections in May 2019.

Recommended: That the Strategic Building Portfolio Review Working Group be deferred until after the resolution of the Heritage Community Hall and the elections in May 2019.

438/18-19. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

MOVED BY Councillor P M Harman and seconded by Councillor Mrs S P Butterfill;

RESOLVED:

That, pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of the following item(s).

No members of the press or public were present during discussion of the following items of business.

439/18-19. **REQUEST FROM PAVILION.**

A request had been received from The Pavilion regarding the two week period they were scheduled to be refurbishing the bar area.

Members discussed the information and agreed to award a grant, under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (3), in line with the request provided within the confidential report.

Recommended: To award a grant, under Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (3), in line with the request provided within the confidential report.

There being no further business to transact, the Meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairman)